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Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Jürgen Schulz (Germany), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies, protracted crises and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2017/213 of 7 April 2017, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2017 session would be "Restoring humanity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability" and that it would convene three panel discussions under the segment,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States, the United Nations and their capacity caused by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, health emergencies and epidemic outbreaks, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises, emphasizing the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries, to be provided efficiently and effectively, and emphasizing also the need for development and humanitarian actors to work better together to strengthen resilience, including urban resilience, in terms of prevention, preparedness and response,

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Expressing grave concern at the unprecedented number of people affected and displaced by humanitarian emergencies, including frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, recognizing the need for burden-sharing, and noting with appreciation efforts at the national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing also the need for international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Noting the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Recognizing the critical role of host countries and communities, especially developing countries, in addressing the needs of affected populations in humanitarian emergencies, and reiterating the need for timely and coordinated support from the international community to hosts and affected countries to strengthen their development and resilience,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] and the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law,

Recalling also the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005,[3] as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Strongly condemning acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2404, No. 43425.

medical duties, their means of transport, equipment and supplies, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deploring the long-term consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and the health-care systems of the countries concerned,

Strongly condemning also all attacks, threats and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the consequences of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Noting with grave concern that children and youth continue to lack education in situations of humanitarian emergencies, recognizing that the impact of humanitarian emergencies on education presents humanitarian and development challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies, as a contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, and to provide quality education for all, in particular children in humanitarian emergencies, and in this regard reaffirming that education should pursue a contribution to peace,

Expressing deep concern at all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, and noting with great concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in emergency situations and that civilians are the main victims of violations of international humanitarian law committed by parties to armed conflict,

Affirming the need for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[4] emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national and regional levels is critical to reducing the risk and the impact of disasters and vulnerabilities to hazards, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience, including through disaster preparedness, is a multidimensional process including both humanitarian and development actors in support of long-term development, stressing the need for enhanced investment in building national and local capacities for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, particularly in developing countries, as well as investment in building regional capacities,

Recognizing, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement [5]adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6]

[4] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance will be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Encouraging closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action,

Recognizing that humanitarian emergencies may disproportionately affect women and girls and that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes relevant to such emergencies, that the specific needs and interests of women and girls, including for education and health, are identified and safely and adequately addressed in strategies and responses, as appropriate, and that the rights of women and girls are promoted and protected in humanitarian emergencies,

Reaffirming that the specific needs and priorities, as well as capacities, of women, girls, men and boys of different ages should be identified, responded to and mainstreamed into humanitarian assistance programming at all stages in a comprehensive and consistent manner, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, women, girls and boys face heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being,

Recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, recognizing also the need to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, and in this regard stressing the importance of ensuring non-discrimination, meaningful participation in decision-making processes, as well as cooperation and coordination in the provision of assistance to ensure that their needs are addressed,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels to the needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

Recognizing that Member States and the United Nations system need to continue their work through, inter alia, strengthening partnerships at all levels with relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, in support of national efforts, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts adhere to humanitarian principles,

Stressing the need for Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the specific needs of the most vulnerable, thereby contributing to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] including the call to leave no one behind,

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

Reaffirming further the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,[8] and underlining the need for active participation by Member States in the processes leading up to the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as the global compact on refugees, and reaffirming the comprehensive refugee response framework, as outlined in annex I to the New York Declaration, as an important approach to ensure a more predictable and sustainable response to large movements of refugees, and welcoming its practical application,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity, and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

Stressing that the international community should provide, in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen coordination, preparedness and response efforts and to improve the quality and effectiveness of

[8] General Assembly resolution 71/1.

[9] A/72/76-E/2017/58.

humanitarian action, including through enhancing complementarity with and between relevant stakeholders, such as affected Governments, regional organizations, donors, development organizations, civil society and the private sector, involved in response efforts to make use of their comparative advantages and resources;

4. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance and improve the efficiency of existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters, and encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate, in consultation with Governments, to consider, where possible, common objectives, including risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through coordinated and complementary assessments, analysis, and multi-year planning and programming and funding and increased investment in preparedness, based on a prioritization of needs and conducted in line with humanitarian principles, in order to reduce suffering and losses and the overall impact of humanitarian crises, and in this regard emphasizes that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to longer-term development, humanitarian response, particularly in protracted crises, needs to be planned over a multi-year framework, as appropriate, and linked with development planning processes, while integrating key stakeholders, such as Governments, regional organizations and international financial institutions, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations to consider applying, in coordination with national authorities, risk-management tools in order to allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises, the different vulnerabilities of countries and regions and the risk exposures of affected populations, and in this regard notes the further development of established tools and innovative mechanisms, such as through the introduction of forecast-based financing mechanisms, networking of disaster risk reduction centres, comprehensive preparedness measures and the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and information regarding national and regional contexts, taking into account the environmental impact;

7. *Urges* United Nations agencies and international organizations, in their humanitarian assistance efforts, to continue to improve the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments, and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with affected States, and in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action encourages international humanitarian organizations and relevant actors to continue to work with national and local authorities as well as with civil society and affected populations, and recognizes the role of affected communities in identifying urgent needs and requirements in order to ensure an efficient response;

8. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[4] through, inter alia, disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, and other proactive measures that aim to prevent new and reduce existing risk, in order to minimize humanitarian needs;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and multi-hazard early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing adverse impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable, thereby also contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to identify and monitor disaster risk, including vulnerability to natural hazards;

10. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, reduce and address sustainably vulnerabilities related to climate change and natural disasters, particularly with least developed countries and small island developing States and their communities;

11. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and noting the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the Blueprint for Action prepared by them;

12. *Urges* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further strengthen their efforts in supporting national Governments in mapping emergency preparedness and response capacities at the country and regional levels, in order to better facilitate the complementarity of disaster response efforts between national and international capacities, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote, as appropriate, the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance and to integrate risk management into national development plans;

13. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response through addressing the specific needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, men and boys on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and taking into account information provided by affected States, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes in order to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian action, and encourages greater utilization of the gender marker and other tools, including age-sensitive tools, throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

14. *Recognizes* the critical role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership and their participation in the planning, design and implementation of response strategies, including through

strengthening partnerships with and building capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate, and by further promoting gender-responsive humanitarian programming;

15. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, to ensure reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, and in this regard recognizes that relevant services, including the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health, are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occurs in humanitarian emergencies;

16. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence, while ensuring the safety of victims, in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their response in cooperation with relevant organizations, such as local women's organizations as appropriate, including by seeking to ensure the provision of meaningful access to medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, for all victims, survivors and those affected by such violence, calls for a more effective response, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to consider engaging in this area, including through prevention, mitigation and response measures;

17. *Underscores* that it is critically important for civilians, in particular women and children, to be protected from any form of abuse or exploitation, and welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the system, and stresses that victims should be at the core of such efforts;

18. *Recognizes* that humanitarian emergencies weaken the ability of social services, including health systems, to deliver essential life-saving assistance, and produce setbacks in health development, and also recognizes that resilient health systems can reduce the impact of disasters, and stresses the need to build resilient health systems at the national, regional and global levels, especially capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, calls upon the World Health Organization, the United Nations humanitarian system, other humanitarian organizations and other relevant actors to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination and response capacities so as to assist Member States, upon request, in effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and emergencies with health consequences in humanitarian settings, ensuring that humanitarian assistance does not unintentionally weaken health systems, and takes note of the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events;

19. *Stresses* the need to foster global preparedness and support the development of measures, including rapid response mechanisms, to respond to health emergencies, and urges Member States to increase their efforts to strengthen global response capacities;

20. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, including school feeding programmes, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

21. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

22. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

23. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

24. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

25. *Also urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

26. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, acts of terrorism and attacks on humanitarian convoys, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

27. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all, and also reaffirms the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels and ages, inter alia, for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, to

contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development, and in this regard reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law and strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes in contravention of international humanitarian law;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[10] and international human rights obligations;

29. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure better protection of, assistance for as well as self-reliance and resilience of internally displaced persons, including through appropriate cooperation with United Nations organizations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and international financial institutions, in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement, by adopting and implementing policies and strategies, on a multi-year basis as applicable, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[11] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons, in further addressing barriers and obstacles that affect support for internally displaced persons, and in finding durable solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

30. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement, and additional pressure on host communities, and encourages the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

31. *Also recognizes* the significant increase in forced displacement worldwide, and stresses the need to comprehensively respond to the specific needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities in humanitarian and development planning;

32. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

33. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[11] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

34. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian assistance through, inter alia, continued and enhanced dialogue with Member States, including on the processes, activities and decisions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and further strengthening, within existing resources and mandates, the coordination abilities of the humanitarian coordinator, and in this regard encourages Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to continue to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat so as to ensure effective and efficient delivery of the humanitarian response to affected people;

35. *Recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

36. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments and relevant local organizations, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations to ensure that their different and specific needs are appropriately addressed;

37. *Encourages* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste and abuse and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

38. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in promoting innovation as a means of developing tools that enhance preparedness and reduce fragility and risks through, inter alia, increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation and access to information and communications technologies, and to identify, promote and integrate best practices and lessons learned with regard to, inter alia, partnerships, procurement, collaboration and coordination between agencies and organizations, and in this regard notes the importance of promoting and supporting innovation and developing local capacities as a priority and welcomes innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimum logistical and infrastructure implications;

39. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies more effectively to respond to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash-based transfer mechanisms, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to support the development of local markets and strengthen national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue building their capacity to systematically consider cash-based transfer programming, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance;

40. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect, and all States to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law, as well as to comply with their obligations under human rights law and refugee law, as applicable;

41. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[1] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[12] in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

42. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

43. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

44. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

45. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

46. *Urges* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected States, recognizes that humanitarian assistance should be provided in ways that are supportive of early recovery, sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, and recalls that early recovery requires timely, effective and predictable funding through humanitarian and development financing, as appropriate, to meet enduring humanitarian, recovery and post-crisis priorities while simultaneously building national and local capacities;

47. *Encourages* the United Nations and relevant humanitarian organizations, in cooperation and coordination with Member States, respecting their national priorities, and consistent with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to support and build national and local capacities,

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

including through increasing predictable and, as appropriate, direct financing to national and local partners, including women's groups, with a focus on preparedness, response, recovery and coordination capacities, and Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

48. *Recognizes* that funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach in order to effectively and sufficiently address the immediate needs of all affected populations in emergency situations, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies and those of a long-term nature, and the underlying causes of crises, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant entities to provide adequate funding and investment in preparedness and resilience-building, including from humanitarian and development budgets, reduce earmarking and increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding, as appropriate, while recognizing the need for transparency in how core and non-earmarked funding is used;

49. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

50. *Stresses* the need to enhance resource mobilization efforts to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, including through additional contributions from non-traditional donors, exploring innovative mechanisms, such as the utilization of risk-informed anticipatory decision-making, flexible funding for multi-year appeals through existing tools such as consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, such as the country-based pooled funds, and to continue to broaden partnerships and the donor base in order to increase the predictability and effectiveness of funding, and to promote South-South and horizontal and triangular cooperation globally, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, Member States to contribute to the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

51. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and therefore welcomes the call by the Secretary-General to double the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars by 2018, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the Fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund;

52. *Notes* the holding of the first World Humanitarian Summit, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016;

53. *Encourages* Member States to work closely with the United Nations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and local entities, as appropriate, to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and in this regard recalls the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[13] and takes note of the commitments undertaken therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas;

[13] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the concrete measures taken and the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

55. *Requests* the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to continue their efforts with a view to eliminating duplication between the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, while promoting their complementarity.

United Nations E/2017/L.25

Economic and Social Council

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28 June 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 11 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

Recalling further its resolution 2016/15 of 26 July 2016 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/238 of 21 December 2016,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2017, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges" and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[8]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Acknowledges* the potential of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in the least developed countries, welcomes in this regard the establishment of the Technology Bank by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/251 of 23 December 2016, and in this context encourages Member States, especially developed countries, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and operational support to the Technology Bank to ensure its early operationalization and effective operation;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of increased global support, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) declined considerably in 2016 compared with 2015, and underlines the urgent need to reverse the decline, while expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their ODA commitments to

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313.
[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.
[8] A/72/83-E/2017/60.

the least developed countries, and encourages them to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

6. *Expresses its concern* that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries retreated by 13 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, underlines the need to substantially increase foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries, recognizes in this regard that private capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, and calls upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries so as to develop their productive capacities;

7. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene a full session, at its next forum on financing for development follow-up, on adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including its resolution 2016/15, and recalls that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] in the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

8. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards sustainable graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but that they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results, emphasizes the need for a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and encourages development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of transition strategies for the least developed countries, as well as for smooth transition for graduated countries, and to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA or technical assistance provided to the graduated countries;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[9] and looks forward to its review;

10. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the Committee's recommendations;[10]

11. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. B, para. 12.

[10] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, para. 5.

undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

12. *Welcomes* the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)[7] underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, recalls the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

13. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2018 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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Economic and Social Council

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28 June 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 18 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, of the outcome document entitled "New Urban Agenda",[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the preparations undertaken for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);[3]

2. *Decides* to transmit the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-second session;

3. *Recalls* that the Secretary-General will report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda[2] every four years, in accordance with paragraphs 166 to 168 of the Agenda and the footnote thereto, and looks forward to the first report to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in 2018.

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

[3] E/2017/61.

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Economic and Social Council

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29 June 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 12 (g)
Coordination, programme and other questions: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe), on the basis of informal consultations

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2015/2 of 8 April 2015,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,[1]

Underscoring the importance of the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS on 8 June 2016,[2] as well as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2016-2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to end AIDS, adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board on 30 October 2015,

Welcoming the fact that the 2016-2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration are complementary and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the joint programme model is largely aligned with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly called for a United Nations development system that is more strategic, integrated, coherent and results-oriented, with a central focus on leaving no one behind,

Welcoming the new data and analysis contained in the recent Joint Programme reports of 2016 entitled "Global AIDS update", "90-90-90: on the right track towards the global target", "Prevention gap report" and "Get on the fast-track: the life-cycle approach to HIV", which not only provide compelling evidence on the progress made but also highlight the persistent gaps, and call for greater investment

[1] E/2017/62.
[2] General Assembly resolution 70/266.

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in the next four years in order to enable countries to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030,

Noting with appreciation the continued reporting on progress by Member States, providing the most comprehensive overview to date of the response to HIV and AIDS at the country level and enabling continued refinement of strategic information to inform decision-making,

Welcoming the progress made in increasing access to HIV treatment and preventing new HIV infections,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the progress made, critical challenges remain, including insufficient progress in reducing HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and among key populations that epidemiological evidence shows to be globally at higher risk of HIV infection;[3] important regional disparities in terms of progress made by countries in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, which disproportionately affect infants and children; new HIV infections in many countries on the rise due in part to inefficient and/or insufficient policies; HIV prevention efforts inadequately resourced and their implementation insufficiently taken to scale; limited integration of the HIV and AIDS response into broader health systems; and the financing gap for the global HIV and AIDS response and reduced international financing,

Expressing particular concern that, despite significant scale-up of HIV testing, 40 per cent of people living with HIV are still unaware of their HIV status, and stressing that progress in this area is critical to the achievement of the Joint Programme 90-90-90 target[4] by 2020,

Recognizing the value of lessons learned from the multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS in addressing other complex health and development challenges, and recognizing also that progress in the HIV and AIDS response has led to progress on broader development outcomes,

Welcoming the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint Programme to establish a representative and regionally balanced global review panel to provide recommendations for a sustainable and fit-for-purpose Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS by revising and updating the operating model, in particular with regard to joint work, financing and accountability, and governance, which are pillars of critical importance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;[1]

2. *Recognizes* that the AIDS epidemic is not yet over, and stresses the urgency of fast-tracking the AIDS response to meet the 2020 milestones and targets, as a prerequisite for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

3. *Urges* the Joint Programme to continue to support the full, effective and timely implementation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2016-2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to end AIDS and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030;[2]

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[3] As referred to in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 and as discussed in the "Prevention gap" report, each country should define the specific populations that are key to their epidemic and response based on the epidemiological and social context.

[4] The Joint Programme 90-90-90 is a treatment target initiative to help end the AIDS epidemic and calls for ambitious but achievable targets by 2020: 90 per cent of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy having viral suppression by 2020.

4. *Stresses* the importance of the programmatic coherence of the Joint Programme to continue to leverage the comparative advantages of diverse United Nations bodies and partners in strengthening a multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS;

5. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to scale up efforts on an urgent basis to achieve the goals of the 2016-2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS as an important prerequisite and enabler for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of strong partnerships, including between the Member States, international organizations and bilateral partners, to fast-track the HIV and AIDS response and urgently address the regional disparities, as highlighted in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, in the next four years, which offers an important window of opportunity to accelerate the response and lay the foundation to end the epidemic as a public health threat by 2030;

7. *Reaffirms also* that the Joint Programme's co-sponsor and governance model has provided the United Nations system with a useful example of strategic coherence, reflecting national contexts and priorities, through its coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance, and country-level impact, as set out in General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Joint Programme to continue to set the path for reform by revising and updating its operating model, in particular in the areas of joint work, financing and accountability, and governance, as considered by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint Programme at its 40th meeting, held in Geneva from 27 to 29 June 2017, on the basis of a proposal by the Executive Director of the Joint Programme and the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, and by recognizing the contributions of the Global Review Panel's work and recommendations;

9. *Recognizes* the critical importance of the Joint Programme in actively contributing to and engaging in the follow-up and review process of progress on the 2030 Agenda, including at the high-level political forum, to ensure that adequate attention is given to the HIV and AIDS response and its interlinkages with the other Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

10. *Notes* the continued need to close the HIV and AIDS resource gap, in line with the principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity, encourages countries to scale up domestic and international funding for the HIV and AIDS response, and emphasizes that action is needed to ensure political, programmatic and financial accountability and sustainability at all levels;

11. *Stresses* the importance of a fully funded unified budget, results and accountability framework for the effective functioning of the Joint Programme, and calls for renewed efforts to close the current funding gap, including by calling upon existing donors to maintain and step up their contributions and by inviting new donors to join from both the public and private sectors;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2019, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint Programme in collaboration with its co-sponsors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

United Nations E/2017/L.28

Economic and Social Council

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28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 12 (d)
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Haiti, Peru, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay: draft resolution

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012, 2013/15 of 23 July 2013, 2014/37 of 18 November 2014, 2015/18 of 21 July 2015, and 2016/28 of 27 July 2016 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/297 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014, and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 71/161 B of 13 July 2017 on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political, institutional and socioeconomic stability are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and the international community in this regard;

3. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the elections and the installation of a new Government in Haiti;

4. *Encourages* the Haitian authorities and all political actors and stakeholders to seize this opportunity to work together to contribute to the reconstruction and development process of Haiti as well as to build and to sustain peace;

[1] S/2017/??.

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5. *Calls upon* donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to remain engaged in support of the long-term development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to relaunch coordination efforts based on strong national leadership and to take more coordinated and transparent steps to strengthen the implementation of the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to redouble efforts to use existing mechanisms for the tracking of assistance, in order to increase transparency, coordination and alignment with Haitian development priorities;

7. *Welcomes* the elaboration of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2017-2021, and calls for, inter alia, closer coordination between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the successor United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the United Nations country team and consultation with the Government of Haiti on the implementation of the "Delivering as one" approach by the United Nations system in Haiti;

8. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives coordinated by the Government of Haiti on the basis of a horizontal and participatory approach in order to help the country to respond to development challenges in a more flexible and effective manner, with special emphasis on an integrated approach to capacity-building, and encourages all development partners, including the United Nations system and developing countries, to support such modalities;

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to support civil society organizations in Haiti, to benefit from their local knowledge and to strengthen their capacity to engage in the development process and become more effective agents of change in support of Haiti's development objectives;

10. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti and the national health plan, as well as with other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

11. *Calls urgently for* adequate funding for humanitarian activities, including the cholera epidemic response, as presented in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti, and encourages partners to connect short-term activities with long-term development to build resilience and reduce the recurrence of crises;

12. *Encourages* all relevant actors within the United Nations system, including the peacebuilding architecture, as appropriate, to consider ways in which they can coordinate their efforts, at the request of the Government of Haiti, to better contribute to the strengthening of national institutions and the implementation of strategies and programmes to support reconstruction and sustainable development;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2018 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

15. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the successor United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, other major stakeholders and civil society organizations, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

16. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2018 session.

United Nations E/2017/L.29–E/HLPF/2017/L.2

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 5 (a)
High-level segment: ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

High-level political forum on sustainable development
Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
10-19 July 2017
Agenda item 3*
Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, submitted by the President of the Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe)

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"

Ministerial declaration of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"

We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. Reaffirm our commitment to effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind. We stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centred, universal and transformative and that its Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development — the economic, social and environmental. They seek to realize the human rights of all. We reaffirm all the principles recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We welcome efforts at all levels to

* See E/HLPF/2017/5.

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implement the 2030 Agenda and recognize that after almost two years of implementation our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. We acknowledge, at the same time, that the pace of implementation must be accelerated as the tasks facing us are urgent, and that, in this regard, decisive action is also imperative for implementing and raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels and securing our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

2. Recognize that eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity require collective and transformative efforts, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, adolescents, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and peoples living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, and peoples in areas affected by terrorism and conflict. We stress that collective action can promote policy integration, facilitate inclusive partnerships and provide support for poverty eradication;

3. Commit to ending poverty and hunger and ensuring healthy lives at all ages everywhere; establishing the conditions to maintain this outcome across generations; combating inequalities within and among countries; and healing and securing our planet. We emphasize our commitment to a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, leading to decent work for all; a world where innovation, industrialization and cooperation in productive capacity can accelerate economic growth. We affirm the need to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development. We will protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning and development, sustainably managing natural resources and taking urgent action on biodiversity loss and climate change;

4. Will foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the 2030 Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building. We call for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment;

5. Commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed. The feminization of poverty persists, and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. We stress the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty. We realize that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress

across all the goals and targets. We also stress the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the life cycle, including through social protection systems;

6. Recognize children, adolescents and youth as important agents of change and underline the necessity of investing in them with a view to addressing multidimensional deprivations, ending intergenerational poverty, harnessing the demographic dividend and empowering them to build a more prosperous future. We call on all Member States to ensure that youth education, skills development and employment are at the centre of our priorities to enable them to fulfil their potential as active members of society. We also commit to including their perspectives in the development and assessment of strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs and underscore the importance of supporting young people's participation in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. We stress the need to protect their human rights and to eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence and coercion against them, including the elimination of all harmful practices;

7. Stress that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. We recognize that 2016 was the warmest year in recorded history and that the global average temperature that year was 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We recognize the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge. We welcome the Paris Agreement, and its early entry into force, encourage all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible. We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience. We stress the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones. We highlight the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. We recognize that effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. We underline the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, in order to minimize the consequences of disasters;

8. Commit ourselves to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy. We also commit ourselves to taking steps to ensure that our local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

9. Recognize that building synergies across all dimensions of sustainable development is essential for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We underline that policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development require engagement by all stakeholders and that they are key to unlocking opportunities for poverty eradication and for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels. We commit to devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of "win-win" cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world;

10. Reaffirm that the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council has the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level;

11. Recognize that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. Common challenges across least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as outlined in their respective Programmes of Action, include structural rigidities, levels of indebtedness, low share of global trade, remoteness, poor infrastructure development, low productivity, jobless growth, and limited resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks including the impact of climate change, desertification, floods, drought and land degradation. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries;

12. Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which informs the follow-up and review process and provides an evidence base and analysis on gaps and challenges for our consideration. We acknowledge that, based on existing data, while global progress has been evident in many cases, it has been uneven across countries and regions and also insufficient across many targets. We also acknowledge that further efforts are required by all to complete and update the evidence base;

13. Reiterate that, while our review this year emphasizes Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14, as well as Goal 17, the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the Sustainable Development Goals makes it essential that we pay particular attention to leveraging synergies and co-benefits, while avoiding or minimizing trade-offs. The integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the goals and targets guides and informs the in-depth review of progress made on all goals by the high-level political forum;

14. Acknowledge that while extreme poverty has fallen globally, progress has been uneven, and 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty. There are poor people in every part of the world, but disproportionately concentrated in rural areas. There are special challenges to addressing poverty in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. We are concerned that, under the current growth trajectory, nearly 35 per cent of the population in least developed countries could remain in extreme poverty by 2030. At the same time, more than 70 per cent of the world's poor live in middle-income countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. With many overlapping deprivations, children and young persons are especially at risk of being trapped in intergenerational cycles of poverty. We urge that countries, in the context of their own national plans and programmes, include measures that will amplify the poverty eradicating impact of actions taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, identify populations most at risk of remaining in or falling back into poverty and place special focus on reaching them; and develop appropriate mechanisms to strengthen institutions serving those living in remote areas and those affected by conflict and post-conflict and forced displacement. We are committed to creating more economic opportunities for people living in poverty. Eradicating poverty cannot be achieved without sustainably using and protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change and environmental degradation. We stress the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, based on

national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. We note the need for countries, the United Nations development system and all relevant stakeholders to ensure and promote a multidimensional approach in their work and efforts to eradicate poverty;

15. Note with concern that poverty remains a principal cause of hunger and that an estimated 793 million people are still undernourished globally, 155 million children are stunted, and other forms of malnutrition are rising. Climate change and land degradation are increasing the vulnerability to extreme weather events of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers. Resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect, enhance and restore natural resources, sustain rural and urban livelihoods, and provide access to nutritious foods from smallholder producers must be at the heart of efforts to simultaneously eradicate poverty and hunger, ensure adequate nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture and achieve prosperity. Increased responsible investments are needed to enhance capacity for sustainable agricultural productivity. Climate adaptation and mitigation measures involving responsible investments in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries can have positive impacts. Coherent policies and accountable institutions that respect tenure rights and prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality are imperative. We need to urgently and effectively, with continued and focused efforts, respond to the rising number of crises and emergency levels of food insecurity now affecting 108 million people, especially for those people that are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine;

16. Emphasize that investment in health contributes to reducing inequality, to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We recognize that while impressive advancements have been made on many fronts, progress must be accelerated to achieve the health-related goals and targets. We are concerned that major challenges remain on many fronts, including universal access to quality health care, medicines, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and promoting mental health. Maternal mortality and non-communicable diseases (responsible for nearly 70 per cent of global deaths) are declining too slowly, and stark inequalities in newborn and child mortality and in communicable and infectious diseases threaten the principle of leaving no one behind. We must step up our efforts to promote immunization and combat communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and hepatitis, where achievements are gravely challenged, inter alia, by antimicrobial resistance. We are committed to the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development in all countries, including by curbing air pollution. We must strengthen our preparedness to respond to epidemic outbreaks. We reiterate the need to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. We also continue our efforts to significantly reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. We highlight the importance of strengthening inclusive and resilient health systems, of addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and of investing in scientific research and innovation to meet the health challenges of today and tomorrow;

17. Recognize and are concerned that gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their human rights and opportunities. Violence and discrimination against women and girls in private and public spaces is a major impediment to the achievement of women's empowerment and their social and economic development that no country has managed to eliminate. We reaffirm our

commitment to take action to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls through strengthening of institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks. Women and girls often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and, in this regard, we also recognize the special challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities. We note the slow progress in women's representation in leadership and management-level positions. Globally, women hold only 23.4 per cent of seats in single or lower houses of national parliaments and less than one third of senior- and middle-management positions. Stepped up efforts are required to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership at all levels, in all areas, and in all efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty and promoting prosperity, including through financial literacy and inclusion. We reiterate the urgency of addressing structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, such as discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes, harmful practices and negative social norms and attitudes, so as to ensure rights of ownership, control over land and natural resources, and access to financial services. Action is needed to address gender pay gaps, which remain pervasive across regions and sectors, including by recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. We underline the importance of fully engaging men and boys as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We also underscore that all other Sustainable Development Goals need to be implemented in a manner that delivers results for women and girls. We urge that countries fully integrate gender equality strategies into national sustainable development frameworks so as to promote greater policy coherence, recognizing that achieving gender equality will require both targeted action as well as mainstreaming gender into all our efforts;

18. Emphasize that infrastructure, industry and innovation are strongly connected and share the common goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication. We note with concern that over 1.1 billion people still have no access to electricity, 663 million people lack access to clean water, 2.4 billion do not have adequate sanitation and more than half of the world's population still remains offline. We underline that poor access to infrastructure, notably for transportation, connectivity, electricity and energy more generally, water and sanitation, information and communications technology, financial services and marketing, remains a major impediment to development, diversification and value addition, as well as sustainable urbanization, in many parts of the world. Effective solutions are required to achieve resilient and accessible infrastructure development that is climate-sensitive and resource efficient and that will reduce the risks and impacts of disasters, through stronger coordinated partnerships at all levels, as well as development of risk mitigation measures and expertise. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs for all, promote productivity growth, energy efficiency, innovation, social inclusion, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We acknowledge that innovation is essential for harnessing the economic potential of each nation and the importance of supporting entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, which add new momentum for economic growth and job creation and expand opportunities for all, including women and youth. We highlight the importance of innovation-driven development and the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises so as to increase employment in all sectors;

19. Possess a strong conviction that our ocean is critical to our shared future and common humanity in all its diversity. It contributes to sustainable development and sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, maritime trade and transportation, decent work and

livelihoods, and we recognize the special importance of the oceans and seas and marine resources for least developed countries and small island developing States. Some 300 million people find their livelihoods in marine fisheries, 90 per cent of those in small-scale, artisanal fisheries. We are alarmed by the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, loss of marine biodiversity and sea-level rise, as well as by the threats caused by marine and land-based activities. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity, including by dedicating greater resources to marine scientific research and promoting decision-making based on the best available science. We welcome the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and take note of its seven partnership dialogues. We call on all stakeholders to urgently undertake, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the call for action adopted during that Conference and by implementing the respective voluntary commitments pledged by individual Member States and other stakeholders during the Conference;

20. Recognize that, despite some positive developments, a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. That effort will require coherent policies and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors. We are concerned about the significant impacts of the current challenging global environment on national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, including not only economic factors such as difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, but also natural disasters, climate change, environmental degradation, humanitarian crises and conflicts. We will take concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage accelerating national efforts and strengthening international cooperation that supports policies and programmes to increase public and private, domestic and international investment in sustainable development. We emphasize that the scale and level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda require strengthening and promoting effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, by enhancing engagement of governments with global, regional and subregional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, the donor community, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, community groups, academic institutions, and other relevant actors. We stress that strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships that are cross-sectoral and effectively integrated are instrumental for contributing to achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and the related Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, we encourage the United Nations system to enhance its collaboration with partners, and to share knowledge and best practices in partnership approaches with a view to improving transparency, coherence, due diligence, accountability and impact;

21. Reiterate that the required revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development should facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. We are fully committed to realizing this aim, working together with all stakeholders. International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. We note that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private, and we also note the increase in blended finance strategies through partnerships with the

private sector, so as to scale up the amount of capital that can be mobilized to support public investment projects, in accordance with national policies and priorities. We acknowledge the potential of innovative financing in this regard. We recognize that we share common goals and common ambitions to strengthen international development cooperation and maximize its effectiveness, transparency, impact and results. We also recognize that South-South cooperation is an important element of international development cooperation as a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. We will continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization. We reiterate that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and call for its implementation. In this regard, we take note with appreciation of the first substantive report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. We welcome the holding of the second Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, and take into account its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations on domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology innovation and capacity-building;

22. Emphasize that harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps within and between countries and scaling up capacity-building at all levels is essential to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We also emphasize that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across diverse areas. In this regard, we welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and also welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and encourage continued support. We urge strengthened dialogue between stakeholders and Governments and the promotion of an environment conducive to sharing best practices and catalysing new initiatives and partnerships. We recognize that the creation, development and diffusion of innovations and new technologies and associated know-how are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. We acknowledge both the transformative and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly advances in automation, on our labour markets, and on the jobs of the future and, in this regard, seek to prepare our societies and economies for these effects;

23. Commend the 44 countries[1] that conducted voluntary national reviews at the 2017 high-level political forum. We also commend the 22 countries that conducted the reviews in 2016. They have shared valuable lessons learned, as well as challenges encountered. We are encouraged that the reviews, which are voluntary and country-led, provide examples of the effective involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders, both in the preparations and in their presentations. We acknowledge that countries have established a range of mechanisms to facilitate coordination, including cross-sectoral government working groups, multi-stakeholder committees, and high-level coordinators. We note that the voluntary national reviews highlight

[1] Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

the importance of support and leadership at the highest level, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans and strategies, and the importance of the involvement of local authorities. We stress the importance of building national capacities for follow-up and review, and the usefulness of making assistance available for preparing for the voluntary national reviews. We encourage all Member States to make best use of the lessons learned from the review process to enhance their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to consider presenting voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum, and in this regard commend all those countries that have already volunteered for 2018;

24. Look forward to the work of the 15 eminent scientists who will draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report, taking into account all three dimensions of sustainable development, which will inform the 2019 high-level political forum and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels;

25. Welcome the work of the Economic and Social Council, including that of its functional and regional commissions and segments. The Council is key to supporting efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges and, in this regard, we recognize the contributions made by its forums on youth, partnerships and development cooperation, science, technology and innovation; its segments on integration, operational activities, and humanitarian affairs; and its special meetings. We look forward to the contributions of the Council and other relevant intergovernmental forums and bodies, as well as the major groups and other stakeholders, which provide important expert knowledge on the theme and the goals under review. We note that some of the Sustainable Development Goals still remain uncovered;

26. Also welcome the inputs from the 2017 regional forums for sustainable development which provide useful opportunities, as appropriate, for peer learning, reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion among a variety of stakeholders. We recognize the important role that regional and subregional forums, including the United Nations regional commissions, can have in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We invite them to continue contributing to the work of the high-level political forum including with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

27. Stress the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. We acknowledge that the voluntary national reviews reflect this as a persistent challenge and we urge countries to further strengthen collaboration at bilateral, regional and global levels for capacity-building and sharing of best practices in this regard. In addition, we note the importance of evidence-based and data-driven decision-making and innovation, and the need to build capacity for producing, analysing and using various forms of data, both quantitative and qualitative, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We also welcome the adoption of the global indicator framework that has been agreed by the Statistical Commission as a voluntary and country-led instrument and that includes the initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission, and look forward to its implementation and continual improvement in an inclusive manner;

28. Emphasize the need to take appropriate action towards localizing and communicating the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, from the national to the community and grassroots level. In this vein, there can be no effective implementation, or accountability to our citizens, where no awareness exists. Efforts

should be made to reach out to all stakeholders, including subnational and local authorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, civil society, business, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, and the scientific and academic community;

29. Recognize the role of the United Nations in supporting countries upon their request in their efforts to implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we note the importance of better positioning the United Nations development system so that it is fit for purpose. We take note of the Secretary-General's efforts to respond to Member States' requests to provide recommendations to address gaps and overlaps, as well as options, with an assessment of their implications, advantages and disadvantages, for improving the accountability, transparency and overall coordination of the entities of the United Nations development system and their oversight by Member States. We await the Secretary-General's further options and proposals by the end of the year;

30. Pledge to continue inclusive and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to take bold and transformative steps to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, reaching the furthest behind first and ensuring that no one is left behind.

United Nations E/2017/L.30

Economic and Social Council

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17 July 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 12 (h)
Coordination, programme and other questions: calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council, Frederick Musliwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe)

Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 281 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 to adopt, on a regular basis, a biennial cycle of meetings which would correspond to the programme budget cycle, for better administrative control,

Recalling also its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988 to invite the Committee on Conferences to review the provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council and submit, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/233 of 24 December 2011, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose, at its sixty-seventh session, a comprehensive review of conference servicing highlighting any duplications and redundancies, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of its services,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/262 of 23 December 2016, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to address the issue of duplications and redundancies in conference servicing and noted that the Council had decided, in its resolution 2013/13 of 22 July 2013, to consider at a later date the necessity of reviewing its provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the light of the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on the further strengthening of the Council,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly will review the arrangements contained in Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, entitled "Review of

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the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", at its seventy-second session,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council will adopt a decision on the working arrangements for its 2018 session at the first meeting of the session, on 27 July 2017,

1. *Decides* to approve the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2018 and 2019, to be updated, as necessary, in the light of the decision of the Economic and Social Council on the working arrangements for its 2018 session and other relevant decisions to be adopted by the Council or the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session a streamlined list of bodies whose conferences and meetings should be included in future provisional calendars of conferences to be considered by the Council starting at its 2019 session;

3. *Decides*, on an exceptional basis, to include in the agenda of its 2018 session, under the item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", the sub-item entitled "Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields".

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Economic and Social Council

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18 July 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 18 (a)
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Marie Chatardová (Czechia), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, by which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted during the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,

Recalling its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2013/20 of 24 July 2013 and 2016/21 of 27 July 2016,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on (a) lessons learned in developing productive capacities from countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council, (b) monitoring the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the list of least developed countries, (c) a review of the criteria used in the identification of the least developed countries, in preparation for the triennial review of the category in 2018, and the outline of a multi-year programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria, (d) a review of the recognition and use of the least developed country category by the entities of the United Nations development system, (e) an update of the least developed country category graduation platform for improving the understanding of and preparation for graduation from the least developed country category, and (f) the review of total official support for sustainable development;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twentieth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2018 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to pursue its methodological work to measure progress in and identify obstacles to the development of productive capacities in developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 76 (k) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[4] and to share the outcome of its work as an input to the impact assessments of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the monitoring reports of the Committee on countries graduated or graduating from the least developed country category;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the World Trade Organization, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the regional commissions, among others, to provide inputs to the impact assessments prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to further contribute to the smooth transition of countries graduating from the least developed country category, highlighting those entities' operational activities relating to building productive capacity in the least developed countries and the possible impact of graduation on such activities;

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33).
[4] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

8. *Reiterates* that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020[2] into development policies, and in this regard encourages the entities of the United Nations development system to consistently apply the least developed country category in the provision of international support measures, including through the adoption of common guidelines in this regard;

9. *Also reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly to the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to contribute to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

10. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize resource allocations to the least developed countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016;

11. *Also requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

12. *Invites* the Committee to brief the Council every four years, in the year preceding the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, on how the United Nations development system is applying the least developed country category;

13. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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Economic and Social Council

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20 July 2017

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2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 11 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Marie Chatardová (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2017/L.25

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

Recalling further its resolution 2016/15 of 26 July 2016 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/238 of 21 December 2016,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2017, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges" and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[8]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Acknowledges* the potential of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in least developed countries and in this regard takes note of General Assembly resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly outlined the steps necessary to launch and operationalize the Technology Bank, funded by voluntary contributions, and to ensure continued support for the Technology Bank from all relevant stakeholders, also takes note of resolution 71/251 of 23 December 2016 and in this context encourages Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and operational support to the Technology Bank to ensure its early operationalization and effective operation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation

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[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313.
[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.
[8] A/72/83-E/2017/60.

and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership, and also recognizes that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed, and underlines the importance of strengthening domestic enabling environments including the rule of law and combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms;

7. *Expresses its concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of global support, bilateral official development assistance to least developed countries declined by 3.9 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, according to preliminary numbers, and underlines the urgent need to reverse the decline, while expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

8. *Recognizes* that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts, and in this regard expresses its concern that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries retreated by 13 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, underlines the need for substantially increased foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries, recognizes in this regard that private capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, and calls upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries so as to develop their productive capacities;

9. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly to the Economic and Social Council, at its next annual forum on financing for development follow-up, to discuss adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein, invites the President of the Council to include the outcome of this discussion in his summary of the forum on financing for development follow-up, and recalls that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum will inform the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

10. *Reaffirms* the essential role of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and of full and productive employment and decent work in achieving sustainable development, reaffirms that women and girls must enjoy equal access to high-quality education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, access to finance and economic opportunities and resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment and decent work, leadership and decision-making at all levels, also reaffirms the commitment to work for a significant increase in the investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions, including criminal and civil justice systems, in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels, and further reaffirms continuing support for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys;

11. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards sustainable graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but that they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[9] and looks forward to its outcome;

13. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the Committee's recommendations;[10]

14. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

15. *Welcomes* the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[6] the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017*, Supplement No. 13 (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. B, para. 12.

[10] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, para. 5.

Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development,[7] the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, and the call for action of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, recalls the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

16. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2018 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

United Nations E/2017/L.33

Economic and Social Council

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28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 14
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Angola,* Bolivia (Plurinational State of),* Cuba,* Ecuador,* El Salvador,* Ethiopia,* Indonesia,* Namibia,* Nicaragua,* Sierra Leone,* Syrian Arab Republic* and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/20 of 27 July 2016,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/72/69.

[2] E/2017/59.

[3] See E/2017/SR___.

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Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/122 of 6 December 2016, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

14. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

16. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to continue their cooperation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the framework of the responsibilities established in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular subparagraph *d*, and to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

17. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council;

19. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[4] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

20. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2018 session;

22. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

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Agenda item 16
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Ecuador:*, draft resolution**

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 71/97 of 6 December 2016 and 71/247 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling also its resolution 2016/14 of 25 July 2016,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497(1981) of 17 December 1981 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[1]

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/72/90-E/2017/71.

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Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that it has been 70 years since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 50 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.
[6] S/2003/529, annex.

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which was launched on 15 August 2013 and which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

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[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by

Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017-2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the

economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[3]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

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[3] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[2]

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endanger Palestinian lives and negatively impact the environment as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian

people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[8] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

21. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2018 session.

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Agenda item 17
Non-governmental organizations

United Arab Emirates: draft decision

Application of the non-governmental organization Fondation Alkarama for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant special consultative status to the non-governmental organization Fondation Alkarama.

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Agenda item 12 (e)
Coordination, programme and other questions:
African countries emerging from conflict

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Marie Chatardová (Czechia)

African countries emerging from conflict

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the United Nations system,[1] and requests that a report on the subject be submitted for consideration by the Council at its 2018 session.

[1] E/2017/68.

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